

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for predicting the remaining lifetime of an electric energy storage mechanism, in particular a battery in a motor vehicle, wherein the remaining lifetime is determined by extrapolation with the help of a mathematical model of the energy storage mechanism and this remaining lifetime is defined as the time until reaching any definable limiting values for the minimum efficiency or minimum storage capacity and the remaining lifetime is indicated and, when levels fall below a preselectable threshold for the remaining lifetime, a warning is output.
2. The method for predicting a remaining lifetime of an electric energy storage mechanism as recited in Claim 1, wherein the parameters of the energy storage mechanism are adapted continuously to the real values over the lifetime.
3. The method for predicting a remaining lifetime of an electric energy storage mechanism as recited in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the values for the efficiency and/or storage capacity of the energy storage mechanism are calculated at regular intervals on the basis of the model and stored.
4. The method for predicting a remaining lifetime of an electric energy storage mechanism as recited in Claim 3, wherein values for the efficiency and/or storage capacity of the energy storage mechanism are based on a specifiable charge state and/or a temperature.
5. The method for predicting a remaining lifetime of an electric energy storage mechanism as recited in Claim 4, wherein the anticipated remaining lifetime is determined by extrapolation from the values for the efficiency and/or storage capacity of the energy storage mechanism and the minimum values required for the particular application.
6. A device for predicting a remaining lifetime of an electric energy storage mechanism, wherein at least one method as recited in one of the preceding claims is performed with it and the device includes at least processor means and memory means as well as display means.